

From: Brenda Blair [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 1:17 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for July 28 Regular Meeting

Dear Council,

I want to express my opposition to any attempt to create a parks and rec district with its own tax and funding. APR should not be independent of or have no oversight by Council. I am also opposed to any further acquisitions by APR at this time, and opposed to any further taxes being levied in any shape or form on citizens to fund such expansions. This city is in a dire state financially. Many citizens have difficulty meeting the already high level of charges levied by the city. APR should be looking at ways to reduce its budget, not expand it. Indeed, the question should be asked: what is not profitable that could be dispensed with? For example, do we really need a golf course which continually loses money, caters to just a few, and is paid for by all? How about selling it off for the development of low cost housing, or using it in some way which benefits all.

Yours,

Brenda Blair

From: Susan Hall [REDACTED]
Date: July 26, 2021 at 1:34:43 PM PDT
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony APCR meeting 7/28/21

To APCR

Item: Special APCR meeting of 7/28/21

New Business (b).APRC Dedicated Funding Source Discussion (Possible Action).

As a resident and home owner here in Ashland, I object to any discussion or action by the APCR to set up a second property tax in order to attain a “dedicated funding source.” To collect property tax twice from Ashland residents is clearly “double dipping”. It is a crass work around the State of Oregon mandated property tax limits.

APRC will have to budget and reduce expenditures just as the City departments will have to do, if we are to get on firm financial footing. You are not exempt from pitching in for the good of Ashland. Look at areas to reduce spending and streamline maintenance. Cut cost.. or ask for a percentage of the Food & Beverage Tax \$\$ to fund new projects and maintenance. If you wish to have a portion of the property tax the City already collects then ask for that. But under NO circumstances do you ask for an additional property tax stream.

Soon we will have a new interim City Manager. I believe he should be on board to review and recommend what action (if any) should be taken in regards to APCR’s push to obtain a “dedicated funding source”.

Susan Hall RN

[REDACTED]
Ashland

From: Dean Silver [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 6:18 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for July 28 Regular Meeting

Commissioners and Director Black:

I understand that you are considering the formation of a special district for APR. You need to realize that there is no way that the taxpayers will approve this. Instead of expending any time or energy pursuing that impossible goal, you should concentrate on how to accomplish your essential tasks with less funding than you would desire.

I urge you to accept the fiscal realities of the city at this time. You need to understand that you are going to have to find ways to do more with less funding. Until the City is able to resolve its structural deficiencies, every department will need to do just that. Funding is going to have to be cut for all departments for the time being.

You must realign your priorities away from expansion. You must instead concentrate on maintaining the facilities that already exist. Many of the APR properties are in dire need of rehabilitation and repair. That must be your top priority.

We love our parks. We have enough facilities for the time being. We would hate to see what we have deteriorate further due to lack of necessary care.

Focus on needs, not wants.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dean Silver

[REDACTED]
Ashland, OR 97520-3436
[REDACTED] ■

From: jturner@jeffnet.org [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 8:45 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Subject: Public Testimony APCR meeting 7/28/21

Dear Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners:

The City of Ashland and its citizens are emerging from the economic impact of last years' covid pandemic. Businesses have suffered financial downturns. The constant and longer fire seasons will have a negative effect on the future health of our economy. The city's budget was balanced this year by an infusion of \$4 million from the federal government. The residents, young families and seniors, homeowners and renters, are concerned about their ability to afford to continue to live or move here.

The parks desire to secure permanent funding in this financial environment is not being realistic. If the pandemic returns to increasing numbers and/or the fires continue it will reduce the ability of residents to afford another tax increase. I don't foresee any areas that the city plans to make reduction in staff or services and an addition of another tax bill from the parks department is absurd.

The parks department needs to pause and evaluate what it can do without before asking to increase taxes on the citizens. Show the residents that you are making a sincere effort to plan for emergencies instead of requesting another funding source. We love our parks and enjoy watching others play and enjoy them also. However, there are financial risks for our friends and neighbors. I hope you will consider the precarious situation many of our residents find themselves in presently.

Sincerely,

Pat Turner

From: gwen davies [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:05 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for the July 28th APCR Meeting (special business meeting?)

To the Commissioners: I have been following your efforts to get a dedicated funding source and paying close attention to your ambitions to become a Parks District. I am in total opposition to your current plans and do not see myself supporting you to become a Parks District. You want to be a 3rd taxing entity with all money and decisions at the full discretion of the Parks Commissioners...even imposing more years of the F&B tax with no mention of the voters/taxpayers/public..except to what.....give you the money and unchecked power you seem to be seeking? I say NO.

I believe you should be a department more like the others... with more checks and balances, oversight, accountability, and supervision.

I do not want you to get the switch to most of the F&B taxes you have discussed with the CC. Forget a levy too.

As you know Ashland is facing about a 5 million deficit in the next year. Purcell repeatedly said major adjustments need to be made in this next year. The money management habits and decisions of CC and APCR have been leading us to this disaster for years now. It was coming before the pandemic. Only because of federal money are we not in free fall already.

Voters have been initiating a course correction at the ballot box that is just gaining momentum and will set us up for coming up with a sane plan for fiscal solvency. It demands looking at every aspect of our budget and how our city governs itself. Our new Interim City Manager is just beginning his job in a few days. There are massive reassessments we have to do this year. This is a year for across the board pausing, reassessing, and deciding. This is a year to tell every department to tighten their belts and stick to the basics. This applies to you especially as you do not take care of fire, police, water, sewer, streets and other essential and life and death situations.

One of the first recommendations I will make to CC in August is to do an independent audit line by line, to the penny....far beyond the more superficial annual audit they do. I will recommend not making massive decisions about any department until we have enough information to be assured we have full disclosure, transparency, honesty, and the information we need to chart our path forward while managing money more prudently.

I always support multiple checks and balances on those with power.

Until then all departments should be given a certain percentage cut in their budgets subject to our new CM, oversight from the CC, and input from the public. For you it would be specified: no more new projects, purchases, contracts, consultants.....no cutting line staff but look at management level positionstake care of what we have in good condition....the basics. People can walk and run and picnic in our parks....local people!!! Are the bathrooms and

sewers in good condition? Do you have enough waste baskets? Picnic tables? Benches? Shelters like in Garden Way Park? Fire safety? Campers in parks?

I hope you really think about this. Ashlanders are not amused by finding our town facing millions in the red. I hope you can at least embrace the concept of a year ...or two....in which we have to pause, restructure our government, and agree on plans to put us on solid financial footing within the next 7 or 8 years.

Thank you for reading this. Gwen Davies

From: Nancy Boyer [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:48 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>; Nancy Boyer <boyerbeware@yahoo.com>
Subject: Public Testimony July 28-2021 xA

APRC, As you know Ashlanders along with the people who visit ,love ,care,and enjoy our parks.

This is city owned land that APCR has been given the elected privilege and opportunity to care and maintain for all to use,along with generous wages and benefits to do so. Ashland is experiencing financial issues at this time, and I question your attempt for a stream of income ,by double taxing it's citizens, as many are struggling to live and cover their expenses to live here presently. There is approximately 40-45% of non taxable land at presentputting anymore taxes on the shrinking few who presently pay,would be a huge burden ! Your request to have your own tax base, is unconscionable at this time! How many Parks and land purchases will it take to appease APCR, and how many will satisfy your needs? I consider this a brazen attempt against the taxpayers ,and would ask that you reconsider.and stop your move forward in your attempt for a separate tax base. Please put forth,your energy, time and our monies to repair and maintain our beautiful park system that we are all so privileged to have, and enjoy! Respectfully,Nancy K Boyer